

We claim:

1. An apparatus for compressing a stent having at least one protrusion, comprising:

5           a mandrel insertable into a lumen of the stent for holding the stent;

          a protrusion compressor coupled to said mandrel, said mandrel rotatable relative to said protrusion compressor, said protrusion compressor having a tab  
10       extending therefrom towards said mandrel, said tab pressing the at least one protrusion of the stent inwardly toward the lumen of the stent when said mandrel is rotated relative to said protrusion compressor.

15       2. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said mandrel extends through said protrusion compressor coaxially.

          3. The apparatus of Claim 2, further comprising a knob disposed on an end of said mandrel to aid in turning  
20       said mandrel and for retaining said protrusion compressor on said mandrel.

4. The apparatus of Claim 3, wherein said mandrel has a stent fixation zone with an outer diameter approximating the interior diameter of at least a portion of the lumen of the stent and frictionally engaging the stent when the stent is placed on the mandrel over the stent retention zone.

5. The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein said mandrel has a tapered end leading to said stent retention zone, said tapered end aiding in inserting the mandrel into the lumen of the stent and sliding the stent on to the stent retention zone.

6. The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein said protrusion compressor is captured between said knob and said stent retention zone.

7. The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein said protrusion compressor has a grip portion with a hub and a collar, said collar coaxially received on said hub and having said tab extending therefrom at a distal end thereof, said collar restrained from rotating relative to said grip portion by a pin extending there through and into

an elongated slot in said hub, said slot and pin  
constraining the collar to telescopic movement on said  
hub along a length of travel limited by said slot and  
defining a retracted position and a deployed position  
for said tab.

8. The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein said collar has a  
flange extending outwardly therefrom for a user to grip  
said collar to aid in deployment and retraction of said  
tab.

9. The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein said grip portion  
has a hollow post extending from said hub, said post  
having a relief slot on a distal end thereof, said  
relief slot positioned on said post to align with said  
tab when said tab is in the deployed position, said tab  
capturing the at least one protrusion of the stent  
between said tab and said relief slot when said  
apparatus compresses the at least one protrusion.

10. The apparatus of Claim 9, further including a ball  
and detent interface disposed between said grip portion  
and said collar, said ball and detent interface

controlling the relative rotation between said grip portion and said collar.

5 11. The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the at least one protrusion of the stent is at least one enlarged coil disposed at an end of the stent, said apparatus pressing the enlarged coil inwardly by pushing said collar portion forward to the deployed position to capture said enlarged coil between said tab and said relief slot and  
10 turning the knob and the mandrel relative to said protrusion compressor.

12. The apparatus of Claim 11, further including a sleeve extending from said collar distal to said flange,  
15 said tab extending from said sleeve.

13. An apparatus for compressing a coiled stent having at least one external protuberance, comprising:

means for holding the stent;

20 means for compressing the at least one external protuberance, said means for compressing being rotatably coupled to said means for holding, such that relative rotation thereof compresses the at least one

protuberance, said means for compressing acting on the  
stent by exerting a force perpendicular to an axis of  
the stent.

5        14. The apparatus of Claim 13, further comprising,  
         means for gripping said means for holding the stent  
to aid in rotating said means for holding relative to  
said means for compressing.

10       15. The apparatus of Claim 14, further comprising,  
         means for gripping said means for compressing the stent.

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